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SECRET

28 August 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Anti-Castro Cuban Activities at the Eighth World Youth Festival

1. This memorandum will outline the activities of the anti-Castro
Cuban delegation that CIA sent to Helsinki for the Eighth World Youth
Festival, 29 July - 6 August 1962.

2. The delegation was sponsored overtly by the Directorio Revolu-
tionario Estudiantil (DRE) and consisted of nine members. Its mission
was to nullify the effect of the Castroite Cuban delegation to the
festival and to seek to persuade likely defectors from that delegation.

3. On the opening day of the festival, as delegations paraded through
the streets to the stadium, five DRE delegates unfurled a banner in front
of the Cuban delegation demanding that Castro free his thousands of polit-
ical prisoners. (Reports vary on the actual text of the banner.) The
Cuban delegation broke ranks from the parade and attacked the DRE members,
pushing them backward into a crowd of Finnish spectators. The Finns rallied
to the aid of the DRE members and a General Melee followed, much to the
later embarrassment of the Cuban delegation and the festival sponsors.

4. This incident was unrelated to the Finnish rioting that followed
for three days after the festival opened. But it is likely that the in-
cident helped to exacerbate the anti-communist tension that caused the
rioting. Apparently with this view, Finnish police picked up two of the
DRE members and questioned them. After releasing them, the police sought
the two again. Unfortunately, the two DRE members happened to be riding
in a car that collided with a police car on the night of 1 August. The
two were jailed overnight and released the next day with the suggestion
that they leave Finland as soon as they could. Accordingly, the whole DRE
delegation left on 2 August to go to Germany to attend a Christian Demo-
cratic youth meeting.
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5. [CIA Station in Helsinki] reported that the DRE group's presence at
the festival was effective.

                              GABRIEL LOWE
                              TFW/PA-PROP

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